

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 33 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and add new Claims 34 to 62 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

34. (New) An image formation system including a color image formation apparatus and a black-and-white image formation apparatus, the image formation system comprising:

a color image forming section provided in the color image formation apparatus, for forming a color image;

a black-and-white image forming section provided in the black-and-white image formation apparatus, for forming a black-and-white image;

a determining section for determining whether each of pages in an input job in which both a color page and a black-and-white page exist is a color page or a black-and-white page;

a controller for controlling the color image forming section to form an image for the color page and controlling the black-and-white image forming section to form an image for the black-and-white page according to the determination result of the determining section; and

a selecting section for selecting one of a first mode and a second mode, the first mode being a mode in which, in a case where both a color page and a black-and-white page are to be formed on a single sheet, images for all the pages to be formed on the single sheet are formed by the color image forming section, the second mode being a mode in which, in a case where both a color page and a black-and-white page are to be formed on a

single sheet, an image for the color page to be formed on the single sheet is formed by the color image forming section and an image for the black-and-white page to be formed on the single sheet is formed by the black-and-white image forming section,

wherein the selecting section selects the first mode when sheets having images formed thereon beforehand by the color image forming section or the black-and-white image forming section are mixed without passing through an image forming position, and selects the second mode when the sheets are mixed after passing through the image forming position.

35. (New) The image formation system according to Claim 34, further comprising:

a merging path where sheets on which images are to be formed by the color image forming section or sheets on which images have been formed by the color image forming section, and sheets on which images are to be formed by the black-and-white image forming section or sheets on which images have been formed by the black-and-white image forming section merge; and

a sheet feeder for feeding a sheet having an image formed thereon beforehand by the color image forming section or a sheet having an image formed thereon beforehand by the black-and-white image forming section to the merging path,

wherein the selecting section selects one of the first mode and the second mode depending on the type of the sheet feeder used.

36. (New) The image formation system according to Claim 35,
wherein the merging path is located at a position where the sheets on which
images are to be formed by the color image forming section and the sheets on which
images are to be formed by the black-and-white image forming section merge after
completion of image formation, and

wherein the selecting section selects the first mode when the sheet feeder
that feeds a sheet to the merging path is used.

37. (New) The image formation system according to Claim 35,
wherein the merging path is located at a position where the sheets on which
images are to be formed by the color image forming section or the sheets on which images
are to be formed by the black-and-white image forming section merge before completion of
image formation, and

wherein the selecting section selects the second mode when the sheet feeder
that feeds a sheet to the merging path is used.

38. (New) The image formation system according to Claim 34, wherein the
job in which both a color page and a black-and-white page exist is input from a computer
connected to the image formation system.

39. (New) The image formation system according to Claim 34, wherein the
job in which both a color page and a black-and-white page exist is input from a scanner
connected to the image formation system.

40. (New) The image formation system according to Claim 34, wherein the color image formation apparatus and the black-and-white image formation apparatus receive the same job.

41. (New) The image formation system according to Claim 34,
wherein the case where both a color page and a black-and-white page are to be formed a single sheet is one of a case where one side of a sheet having images formed on both sides thereof is a black-and-white page and the other side is a color page,
wherein a case where both a color page and black-and-white page are imposed on a single sheet in saddle-stitch book binding, and
wherein a case where both a color page and a black-and-white page exist in a single sheet in a reduced layout in which a plurality of reduced pages are arranged on a sheet.

42. (New) A control method for an image formation system including a color image formation apparatus and a black-and-white image formation apparatus, the control method comprising:

a color image forming step of forming a color image using the color image formation apparatus;

a black-and-white image forming step of forming a black-and-white image using the black-and-white image formation apparatus;

a determining step of determining whether each of pages in an input job in which both a color page and a black-and-white page exist is a color page or a black-and-white page;

a controlling step of performing control so that an image for the color page is formed in the color image forming step and an image for the black-and-white page is formed in the black-and-white image forming step according to the determination result in the determining step; and

a selecting step of selecting one of a first mode and a second mode, the first mode being a mode in which, in a case where both a color page and a black-and-white page are to be formed on a single sheet, images for all the pages to be formed on the single sheet are formed in the color image forming step, the second mode being a mode in which, in a case where both a color page and a black-and-white page are to be formed on a single sheet, an image for the color page to be formed on the single sheet is formed in the color image forming step and an image for the black-and-white page to be formed on the single sheet is formed in the black-and-white image forming step,

wherein the selecting step selects the first mode when sheets having images formed thereon beforehand in the color image forming step or the black-and-white image forming step are mixed without passing through an image forming position, and selects the second mode when the sheets are mixed after passing through the image forming position.

43. (New) A color image formation apparatus connected via a network to a black-and-white image formation apparatus including a black-and-white image forming section, the color image formation apparatus comprising:

a color image forming section for forming a color image on a sheet;

a receiving section for receiving image information; and

a selecting section for selecting one of a first mode and a second mode, the first mode being a mode in which, in a case where both a color page and a black-and-white page are to be formed on a single sheet, images for all the pages to be formed on the single sheet are formed by the color image forming section, the second mode being a mode in which, in a case where both a color page and a black-and-white page are to be formed on a single sheet, an image for only the color page to be formed on the single sheet is formed by the color image forming section,

wherein the selecting section selects the first mode when sheets having images formed thereon beforehand by the color image forming section or the black-and-white image forming section are mixed without passing through an image forming position, and selects the second mode when the sheets are mixed after passing through the color image forming section.

44. (New) The color image formation apparatus according to Claim 43, wherein sheets on which images are to be formed or have been formed by the black-and-white image forming section provided in the black-and-white image formation apparatus, and sheets on which images are to be formed or have been formed by the color image forming section merge at a merging path,

wherein a sheet having an image formed thereon beforehand by the color image forming section or a sheet having an image formed thereon beforehand by the black-and-white image forming section is fed to the merging path by a sheet feeder,

wherein the receiving section receives sheet feeder information indicating which sheet feeder is to be used, and

wherein the selecting section selects one of the first mode and the second mode according to the sheet feeder information received by the receiving section.

45. (New) The color image formation apparatus according to Claim 44, wherein the merging path is located at a position where the sheets on which images are to be formed by the color image forming section and the sheets on which images are to be formed by the black-and-white image forming section merge after completion of image formation, and

wherein the selecting section selects the first mode when the sheet feeder that feeds a sheet to the merging path is used.

46. (New) The color image formation apparatus according to Claim 45, wherein the sheet feeder is an inserter or a collator.

47. (New) The color image formation apparatus according to Claim 45, wherein the sheet feeder is provided in the black-and-white image formation apparatus, and is configured to feed the sheet having an image formed thereon beforehand by the color image forming section,

wherein the color image formation apparatus further comprises a determining section for determining whether a received page is a color page or a black-and-white page based on the image information received by the receiving section, and

wherein it is determined whether the received page is black-and-white or color according to the determination result of the determining section.

48. (New) The color image formation apparatus according to Claim 45, wherein the sheet feeder is provided in the color image formation apparatus, and is configured to feed the sheet having an image formed thereon beforehand by the black-and-white image forming section, and the receiving section receives information indicating a color page or a black-and-white page, the color image formation apparatus further comprising:

a sheet loading section for loading sheets; and

a determining section for determining a color page or a black-and-white page based on the information received by the receiving section,

wherein, when the determining section determines that only a black-and-white page is to be formed on a single sheet, the sheet having the black-and-white image formed thereon is fed by the sheet feeder, and

when the determining section does not determine that only a black-and-white page is to be formed on a single sheet, a sheet is fed from the sheet loading section, and an image is formed on the sheet by the color image forming section.

49. (New) The color image formation apparatus according to Claim 44,

wherein the merging path is located at a position where the sheets on which images are to be formed by the color image forming section or the sheets on which images are to be formed by the black-and-white image forming section merge before completion of image formation, and

wherein the selecting section selects the second mode when the sheet feeder that feeds a sheet to the merging path is used.

50. (New) The color image formation apparatus according to Claim 49, wherein the sheet feeder is a hand feed unit.

51. (New) The color image formation apparatus according to Claim 49, wherein the sheet feeder is provided in the black-and-white image formation apparatus, and is configured to feed the sheet having an image formed thereon beforehand by the color image forming section,

wherein the color image formation apparatus further comprises a determining section for determining whether a received page is a color page or a black-and-white page based on the image information received by the receiving section, and

wherein it is determined whether the received page is black-and-white or color according to the determination result of the determining section.

52. (New) The color image formation apparatus according to Claim 49, wherein the sheet feeder is provided in the color image formation apparatus, and is configured to feed the sheet having an image formed thereon beforehand by the black-and-white image forming section, and the receiving section receives information indicating a color page or a black-and-white page, the color image formation apparatus further comprising:

a sheet loading section for loading sheets; and

a determining section for determining a color page or a black-and-white page based on the information received by the receiving section,

wherein, when the determining section determines that only a color page is to be formed on a single sheet, a sheet is fed from the sheet loading section, and an image is formed on the sheet by the color image forming section,

when the determining section determines that only a black-and-white page is to be formed on a single sheet, the sheet having the black-and-white image formed thereon is fed from the sheet feeder, and

wherein, when the determining section determines that both a color page and a black-and-white page exist on a single sheet, the sheet is fed by the sheet feeder, after which an image for the color page is formed by the color image forming section.

53. (New) A black-and-white image formation apparatus connected via a network to a color image formation apparatus including a color image forming section, the black-and-white image formation apparatus comprising:

a black-and-white image forming section for forming a black-and-white image on a sheet;

a receiving section for receiving image information; and

a selecting section for selecting one of a first mode and a second mode, the first mode being a mode in which, in a case where both a color page and a black-and-white page are to be formed on a single sheet, no image is formed by the black-and-white image forming section, the second mode being a mode in which, in a case where both a color page and a black-and-white page are to be formed on a single sheet, an image for only the black-and-white page to be formed on the single sheet is formed by the black-and-white image forming section,

wherein the selecting section selects the first mode when sheets having images formed thereon beforehand by the color image forming section or the black-and-white image forming section are mixed without passing through an image forming position, and selects the second mode when the sheets are mixed after passing through the image forming position.

54. (New) The black-and-white image formation apparatus according to Claim 53,

wherein sheets on which images are to be formed or have been formed by the black-and-white image forming section, and sheets on which images are to be formed or have been formed by the color image forming section provided in the color image formation apparatus merge at a merging path;

wherein a sheet having an image formed thereon beforehand by the color image forming section or a sheet having an image formed thereon beforehand by the black-and-white image forming section is fed to the merging path by a sheet feeder,

wherein the receiving section receives sheet feeder information indicating which sheet feeder is to be used, and

wherein the selecting section selects one of the first mode and the second mode according to the sheet feeder information received by the receiving section.

55. (New) The black-and-white image formation apparatus according to Claim 54,

wherein the merging path is located at a position where the sheets on which images are to be formed by the color image forming section and the sheets on which

images are to be formed by the black-and-white image forming section merge after completion of image formation, and

wherein the selecting section selects the first mode when the sheet feeder that feeds a sheet to the merging path is used.

56. (New) The black-and-white image formation apparatus according to Claim 55, wherein the sheet feeder is an inserter or a collator.

57. (New) The black-and-white image formation apparatus according to Claim 55,

wherein the sheet feeder is provided in the color image formation apparatus, and is configured to feed the sheet having an image formed thereon beforehand by the black-and-white image forming section,

wherein the black-and-white image formation apparatus further comprises a determining section for determining whether a received page is a color page or a black-and-white page based on the image information received by the receiving section, and

wherein it is determined whether the received page is black-and-white or color according to the determination result of the determining section.

58. (New) The black-and-white image formation apparatus according to Claim 55, wherein the sheet feeder is provided in the black-and-white image formation apparatus, and is configured to feed the sheet having an image formed thereon beforehand by the color image forming section, the receiving section receives information indicating a

color page or a black-and-white page, the black-and-white image formation apparatus further comprising:

a sheet loading section for loading sheets; and

a determining section for determining a color page or a black-and-white page based on the information received by the receiving section,

wherein, when the determining section determines that only a black-and-white page is to be formed on a single sheet, a sheet is fed from the sheet loading section, and an image is formed on the sheet by the black-and-white image forming section, and

wherein, when the determining section does not determine that only a black-and-white page is to be formed on a single sheet, the sheet having the color image formed thereon is fed by the sheet feeder.

59. (New) The black-and-white image formation apparatus according to Claim 54,

wherein the merging path is located at a position where the sheets on which images are to be formed by the color image forming section or the sheets on which images are to be formed by the black-and-white image forming section merge before completion of image formation, and

wherein the selecting section selects the second mode when the sheet feeder that feeds a sheet to the merging path is used.

60. (New) The black-and-white image formation apparatus according to Claim 59, wherein the sheet feeder is a hand feed unit.

61. (New) The black-and-white image formation apparatus according to Claim 59,

wherein the sheet feeder is provided in the color image formation apparatus, and is configured to feed the sheet having an image formed thereon beforehand by the black-and-white image forming section,

wherein the black-and-white image formation apparatus further comprises a determining section for determining whether a received page is a color page or a black-and-white page based on the image information received by the receiving section, and

wherein it is determined whether the received page is black-and-white or color according to the determination result of the determining section.

62. (New) The black-and-white image formation apparatus according to Claim 59, wherein the sheet feeder is provided in the black-and-white image formation apparatus, and is configured to feed the sheet having an image formed thereon beforehand by the color image forming section, and the receiving section receives information indicating a color page or a black-and-white page, the black-and-white image formation apparatus further comprising:

a sheet loading section for loading sheets; and

a determining section for determining a color page or a black-and-white page based on the information received by the receiving section,

wherein, when the determining section determines that only a black-and-white page is to be formed on a single sheet, a sheet is fed from the sheet loading section, and an image is formed on the sheet by the black-and-white image forming section,

wherein, when the determining section determines that only a color page is to be formed on a single sheet, the sheet having the color image formed thereon is fed from the sheet feeder, and

wherein, when the determining section determines that both a color page and a black-and-white page exist on a single sheet, the sheet is fed by the sheet feeder, after which an image for the black-and-white page is formed by the black-and-white image forming section.